

8736322

I351.84
I29af2
1988
c.3

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

MAR 23 1989

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

AID TO FAMILIES
WITH DEPENDENT
CHILDREN



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 120246654

Illinois Department of Public Aid
ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

Aid to Families With Dependent Children

Gives You a Chance, Not Just A Check

YOUR CHILDREN ARE YOUR GREATEST CONCERN and Public Aid knows that. Aid to Families With Dependent Children (AFDC) can help you if you have children and need help supporting them.

The law says you and your children may receive help if your children do not have financial support or care because of physical or mental incapacity, unemployment of a parent or absence of a parent for reasons such as death, divorce, separation, and imprisonment.

GO TO YOUR PUBLIC AID OFFICE TO APPLY. Someone in the local public aid office will help you make application. If you are physically unable to come to the office, an application can be sent to your home.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR AFDC? A number of rules and regulations spell out eligibility standards for the AFDC Program. For instance:

- A child receiving assistance must be living with a "blood" relative in the relative's home;
- A child must be under 18 to receive AFDC; or be 18 and a full-time student in high school or vocational school who will finish school before reaching 19;
- Children 16 or over who are not in school full-time may be eligible if they participate in Project Chance;
- To receive AFDC, you must either be a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted to the country. Persons living in the U.S. under color of law are also eligible.
- People participating in a strike are not eligible. If the person on strike is the parent of the children, the entire case is ineligible.

- A childless pregnant woman who would be eligible for AFDC if the child had already been born may be eligible to receive an AFDC grant in the last 4 months of pregnancy.

Your income helps Public Aid determine if you are eligible.

If your income from earnings, pensions, insurance benefits, contributions, lump sum payments, or other sources is less than the Public Aid payment level, you may be eligible for AFDC.

After you fill out your application, the Department of Public Aid will determine whether or not you qualify for AFDC payments. This usually takes about 45 days. In order for the Department to do this, you'll need to provide certain items, as requested, including:

- Rent receipts;
- Social Security numbers of you and your children;
- Statement of wages;
- Savings account passbook;
- Utility bills;
- Birth certificates of you and your children.

Public Aid caseworkers will determine your eligibility the first time you apply for AFDC. They will recheck your eligibility at least every six months thereafter.

Not all of your assets are counted.

Some of your assets are not considered when your family's eligibility for AFDC is determined. Assets not counted include:

- A home that is your family's usual residence;
- Clothing and personal effects;
- Household furnishings;
- One motor vehicle worth \$1,500 or less;
- Additionally, your family may have other assets or personal property including cash worth up to \$1,000.

If you are eligible for AFDC . . .

You will receive a monthly AFDC check from the Department. This check will vary in amount, depending upon the number of children you have and your place of residence.

You will also receive a green medical card to use for covered medical services. Medical assistance may also pay for certain covered services provided by participating providers while you are temporarily in another state.

Your AFDC check and medical card will be mailed to your home or sent to a local currency exchange. See your caseworker to find out where your check will go. If you think the cash amount of your check is wrong, let your caseworker know immediately.

How AFDC gives you a chance.

Your AFDC check helps to provide for you and your children. If you receive AFDC, you may also get help through other Public Aid supported programs, including:

- Food Stamps;
- Medical Assistance;
- Family Planning Services.

Special brochures are available that explain these programs. Your caseworker can tell you about these programs, too.

AFDC can also help you with special needs.

The Department of Public Aid also provides assistance payments to meet certain special needs. Payments which may be authorized include the cost of a therapeutic diet for a person with diabetes, an allowance for a junior or senior in high school, day care for children of elementary or secondary school parents, and day care for employment when the caretaker relative is not the parent and is not receiving AFDC. A separate written request must be made to receive these special need payments.

If you are rendered homeless because of fire or flood, if you've been evicted, or if you've lost money or had it stolen, you may qualify for help through the Crisis Assistance Program. The Crisis Assistance Program is designed to meet extraordinary or unusual needs not provided in the AFDC grant.

Public Aid will also pay funeral and burial expenses in some cases. See your caseworker for details.

AFDC can lead to a job.

All persons who receive AFDC aged 16 through 64, except those considered exempt, must participate in Project Chance. This program can help you find a job or provide training that can lead to employment. For more information, talk with your caseworker or see the special Project Chance program handbook.

If you already have a job, you still may be eligible for AFDC. A portion of your earnings will not be counted when the amount of your grant is figured. Your caseworker can explain rules regarding income you earn, and income you receive in lump sums.

If you receive AFDC, there are requirements you must follow.

For example:

- **Child Support.** You must help the Department obtain child support payments unless you have a good cause for noncooperation. If you receive AFDC you must agree to sign such payments over to the Department. Your caseworker can explain this to you in detail.
- **Changes of Address.** When you move to a different address you must report your new address to the local public aid office. The post office will not forward AFDC checks to new addresses.
- **Information.** You have the primary responsibility of furnishing information which the Department needs to determine your eligibility for AFDC. If you are unable to obtain the information without cost or hardship, seek help from your caseworker. Full information must be given about assets, income, and means of support at the time you apply. Any change in circumstances must be reported within five working days. This includes changes in family size, amount of income, and type of assets.
- **Appointments.** You must keep all appointments and receive any medical examination that is required.
- **Monthly Reporting.** Persons with the following case situations must file a report on household circumstances and income each month: families with earned income, or whose employment ended in one of the last three months, or families with Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. You will be sent a report form to complete, sign and return to the Public Aid office by a specific due date each month.

If you have income from employment, you must report and provide proof of the amount of pay you receive each month. The information must be received by the monthly due date. If you fail without good cause to submit a com-

pleted report by the due date, your assistance will be discontinued. If proof of your earnings is not received in a timely manner, you will not be eligible for the income disregards for employment expenses and day care or the earned income exemption when budgeting income for that month.

If your AFDC stops because you get a job, Public Aid may pay for your child care for the next six months. Tell your caseworker you want this help and fill out a form. Sometimes even though you will not receive payment for the full cost of your child care, you may receive payment for part of the cost.

A family receiving more aid than it is entitled to is required by law to pay back the amount of any overpayment made by the Department. If the money is not repaid, the State may take legal action to recover it or deduct it from future assistance payments.

If it is determined that the Department did not pay you all of the assistance to which you were entitled, you will be issued a check for the amount of the underpayment.

Lump Sum Payments

YOU MUST REPORT RECEIPT OF A LUMP SUM PAYMENT TO YOUR CASEWORKER.

A lump sum payment is money you receive on a one-time only basis. Examples of such payments include insurance settlements, personal injury settlements, retroactive social security payments, lottery winnings, and inheritances. Receipt of a lump sum payment may result in your being considered ineligible for assistance for a certain period of time. In such instances, you will be expected to use the lump sum payment, rather than your AFDC grant, to meet your living expenses. Consequently, if you receive what you think may be a lump sum payment, contact your caseworker **immediately** to find out what effect the lump sum payment will have on your eligibility.

Laws regarding appeals, fair hearings, civil rights, and support from relatives all affect people who receive AFDC. Ask your case-worker for information on these subjects. Brochures on these subjects are available at your Public Aid office.

- The Right to Appeal and to Receive a Fair Hearing (DPA 377)
- Public Aid & Civil Rights (DPA 592)
- Responsible Relatives (DPA 53)

Assignment of Medical Support and Agreement to Cooperate

Illinois law provides that by applying for assistance under the AFDC program, the applicant assigns to the Department of Public Aid his/her rights to medical support and payments for medical care and the rights of his/her children for whom assistance is requested and received. In addition, the applicant agrees as a condition of eligibility to cooperate with the Department in obtaining medical support or payments. If an individual does not cooperate, he/she is ineligible for medical assistance. However, non-cooperation does not affect eligibility for cash assistance nor the financial or medical eligibility of children for whom assistance is received.

If you don't help us in obtaining child support from the child's parent, you will not be eligible for an AFDC check or a medicaid ("green card") until you do help. This means you must keep appointments with attorneys and testify in court. It also means helping to legally identify the father of a child if the child's parents were not married.

Asset Eligibility for Medical Assistance

For medical assistance under all programs, you are eligible for medical assistance for a month if you meet all eligibility requirements and your assets are at or below the allowable limits at any time during the month. If you have excess assets they may be reduced to the appropriate limit before a decision is made on

Monthly Payment Level

Family Size	Group I		Group II		Group III	
	No Adult	Adult	No Adult	Adult	No Adult	Adult
1	\$ 95	\$198	\$ 91	\$190	\$ 88	\$161
2	\$187	\$250	\$181	\$241	\$175	\$230
3	\$232	\$342	\$226	\$331	\$221	\$316
4	\$297	\$386	\$290	\$375	\$281	\$362
5	\$353	\$452	\$344	\$439	\$334	\$422
6	\$379	\$507	\$370	\$493	\$360	\$476
7	\$408	\$534	\$398	\$519	\$386	\$501
8	\$437	\$562	\$427	\$547	\$414	\$527
9	\$468	\$591	\$457	\$576	\$444	\$556
10	\$501	\$623	\$489	\$606	\$475	\$585
11	\$536	\$656	\$522	\$638	\$507	\$616
12	\$572	\$690	\$558	\$671	\$541	\$648

Group I Counties

Boone
Champaign
Cook
DeKalb
DuPage

Kane
Kankakee
Kendall
Lake
McHenry

Ogle
Whiteside
Winnebago
Woodford

Group II Counties

Adams
Bureau
Carroll
Clinton
Coles
DeWitt
Douglas
Effingham
Ford
Fulton
Grundy
Henry
Iroquois
Jackson

Jo Daviess
Knox
LaSalle
Lee
Livingston
Logan
Macon
Macoupin
Madison
McDonough
McLean
Mercer
Monroe
Morgan

Moultrie
Peoria
Piatt
Putnam
Rock Island
Sangamon
St. Clair
Stephenson
Tazewell
Vermillion
Wabash
Warren
Will

Group III Counties

Alexander
Bond
Brown
Calhoun
Cass
Christian
Clark
Clay
Crawford
Cumberland
Edgar
Edwards
Fayette
Franklin
Gallatin
Greene

Hamilton
Hancock
Hardin
Henderson
Jasper
Jefferson
Jersey
Johnson
Lawrence
Marion
Marshall
Mason
Massac
Menard
Montgomery
Perry

Pike
Pope
Pulaski
Randolph
Richland
Saline
Schuyler
Scott
Shelby
Stark
Union
Washington
Wayne
White
Williamson

your application. You may use your excess assets to pay old medical bills or other legitimate expenses. If excess assets are reduced before the date of decision, medical eligibility can begin the first month that assets do not exceed the disregard for at least one day during that month.

If a husband and wife are not living together and they equally divide their marital assets, the transfer will not affect eligibility for a grant and/or medical assistance. If an individual transfers interest in homestead property, it will not affect eligibility.

Fraud. Under Illinois law, persons who make false statements or who willfully deceive and misrepresent their circumstances to the Department or persons who willfully fail to report changes in income, property or need which affect the amount of assistance they are entitled to are subject to penalties.

Persons found guilty of fraud will be required to repay the State the amount of assistance received and, in addition, may be fined, imprisoned, or both. Anyone who helps or encourages misrepresentation of a case by any means is, by law, also guilty of fraud.

The Illinois Department of Public Aid does not discriminate in admission to, or treatment or employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and the U.S. Constitution.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call or visit your local Public Aid office, or write to:

Illinois Department of Public Aid
Jesse B. Harris Building
100 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62762

DPA 586 (R-12-88)

Aid To Families With Dependent Children